

The Eighty-fifth Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1937

REYNOLDS PRINTING
New Bedford, Mass.
1938

Officers of the Free Public Library

FOR THE YEAR 1938

Trustees

Ex-officio	Terms expire January, 1939
LEO E. J. CARNEY	Mayor of the City
JAMES C. KENWORTHY	President of the Board of Aldermen
JOHN THORNHILL	President of the Common Council

Elected by the City Council

COOPER GAW	Term expires April, 1938
W. A. ROBINSON, Jr.	Term expires April, 1938
FRANK A. MILLIKEN	Term expires April, 1939
ALICE P. SHOCKLEY	Term expires April, 1939
REV. LINDEN H. WHITE	Term expires April, 1940
FRANK P. SHEA	Term expires April, 1940

Committees

On Library—

MESSRS. MILLIKEN, GAW, and MRS. SHOCKLEY

On Buildings—

REV. LINDEN H. WHITE, MESSRS. SHEA, and ROBINSON

On Finance—

REV. LINDEN H. WHITE, MESSRS. SHEA, and ROBINSON

On Branches—

MRS. SHOCKLEY, MESSRS. GAW, and ROBINSON

Librarian

HARLAND A. CARPENTER

Assistant Librarian

CLEMENT L. YAEGER

Cataloguer

EDITH H. COBB

Librarian's Secretary

MINERVA F. MAXFIELD

Heads of Departments

ALICE H. TRIPP	Reference Librarian
JANE E. GARDNER	Art Librarian
ETHEL WILCOX	Children's Librarian
GRACE D. SHERMAN	Circulation
L. GERTRUDE WILCOX	Genealogical Librarian

Assistants

EDITH H. BRODHEAD	MARIA E. MAXFIELD
ELSIE COLLINS	ANNA CABRAL
FLORENCE E. FARWELL	JANE T. THURSTON
LENA D. PAULL	MARION H. BONNER
STELLA M. FERGUSON	LUCY M. LAGASSE
MARJORIE COBB	

Branches

North Branch	AMANDA DION and ELIZABETH V. STEPHENSON
South Branch	CLAIRE RILEY, PAULA KENNEDY, KATHLEEN U. LAWLESS
West Branch	CLOTILDA KOBZA
West Branch Reading Room	FLORENCE E. PERRY

Pages

SYLVIA CIABURRI	WALTER LAWLESS
THELMA SWIFT	JOHN REED
MARIAN MCGREGOR	LEONARD PERRY

Elevator Operators

FRED SENFT	CLIFTON N. HATCH
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Janitors

GEORGE SUNDERLAND	GARRISON L. OLIVER
GEORGE BRIGHTMAN	

Cleaners

MARY ALMEIDA	MINNIE ST. JOHN
MARY NORWOOD	ELNORA WILLIAMS
MARY E. MORROW	

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The Trustees present their Eighty-fifth Annual Report to the City Council in the Report of the Librarian, which has been adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

HARLAND A. CARPENTER,

Clerk of the Board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Free Public Library:

I herewith submit the Eighty-fifth Annual Report of the Free Public Library of New Bedford.

HOME USE OF BOOKS

If the 545,942 books circulated from all library agencies for home use during the year 1937 were placed side by side in one continuous line, they would extend for approximately thirteen miles, or the distance from New Bedford to Wareham on the Cape. This total circulation represents an increase of 18,332, or 3.4 per cent, over the number of books borrowed from the library in 1936. That the greater part of this increase in circulation occurred since October proves again the well known fact that the use of public libraries is greatest in periods of the highest rate of unemployment.

One of the most discouraging factors in the daily work of the Circulation Department is the inability to supply new popular fiction and non-fiction in sufficient quantity to meet the public demand to any marked degree. At the present time it is possible to duplicate popular books like "Citadel" to a maximum number of seven copies, in spite of the fact that the reserve lists for these best sellers are increasing so rapidly that it is often two months after the request is received before the reader secures the book. Fifteen copies of the most popular titles would be no more than a reasonable number to provide fairly prompt service to our thousands of readers.

As a partial remedy for this condition the Trustees in December authorized the establishment of a Duplicate Pay Collection at the Central Library for the period of one year as an experiment. The fund to inaugurate this service is being donated by friends of the library.

REFERENCE SERVICE

Because the reference work of a library does not readily lend itself to statistical measurement, the true significance of this part of the library's service to the public is difficult to express in tangible form. However, the information supplied school students, teachers, business men, professional workers, artists and artisans in connection with their daily work doubtless has immeasurable influence on the cultural, social and business life of the community.

The adult reference service of the library is divided into three distinct divisions: The Reference Room, the Art Room, and the Genealogical Room. These departments have functioned during the past year much as they have in recent years.

In the Art Room the service to the public has been rendered more effective by transferring to that room the collection of biographies of musicians which has been housed heretofore with the other biographies in the central book stack. The addition in the fall of many new books to fill in gaps in the collection, and to provide up-to-date material on subjects, represented by publications printed many years ago, resulted in an immediate response on the part of the patrons in increased use of the resources of the department.

The Genealogical Room has to provide local citizens and visitors from all parts of the country with historical information. The fame of our collection of genealogies, and local histories is country-wide. In addition to personal service given to visitors to this room considerable reference service is given by letter. Hardly a day passes which does not bring in the mails an inquiry from some distant place for information which can be found in the printed material in this room. An additional fifteen tray unit has been added to the public catalogue case in this room to provide space for the American Genealogical Card Index.

The Reference Room handles all questions in other fields not falling within the jurisdiction of the two special reference departments previously mentioned. The greater part of the time of the Reference Librarian has been devoted during the last quarter of the year to the selection of books for repair by WPA workers. A new steel file was installed to provide for needed expansion of storage space for the vertical file material. A visible index for the use of the public and reference assistants in quickly verifying the location of current periodicals is in preparation, and will be ready for use early next year.

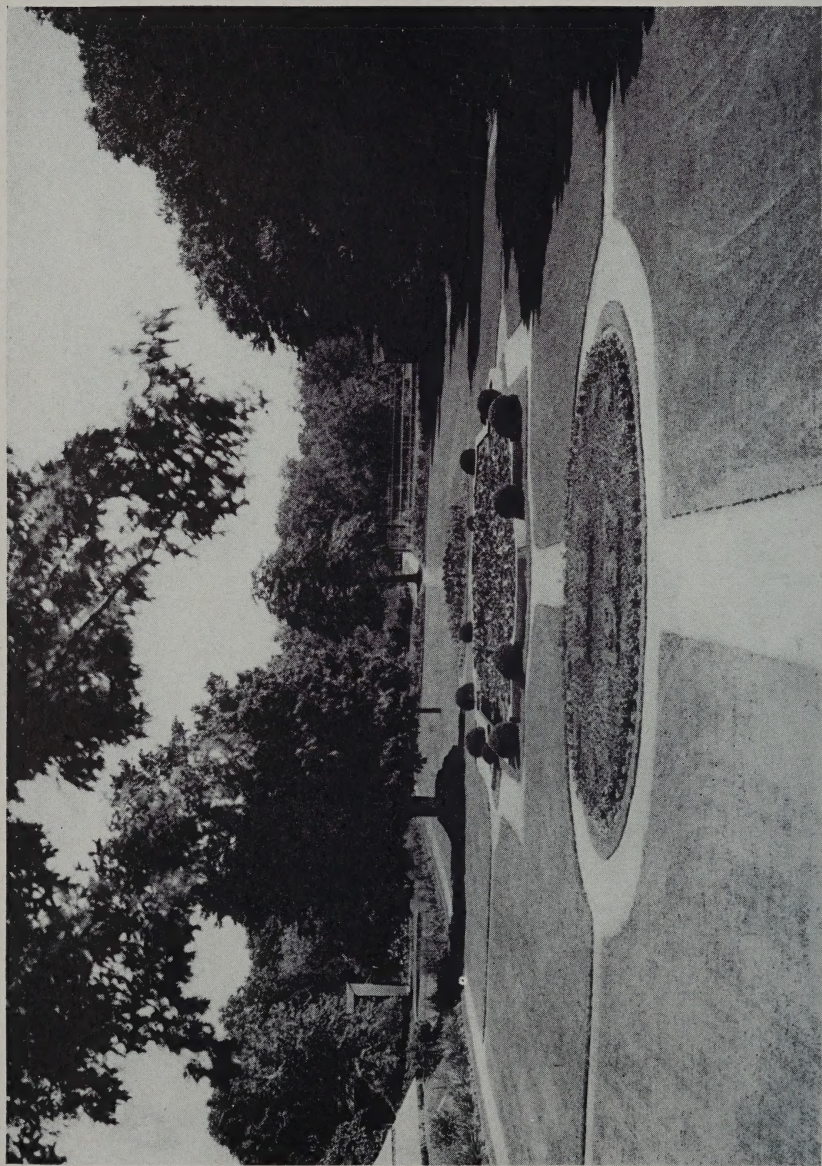
One of the greatest aids to rendering more efficient the service of all departments, but more especially of the reference departments, is the new telephone switchboard installed in November with extensions to the various public rooms. It is hoped that quicker telephone service will encourage greater use of it by the public.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Many people think of the Juvenile Department as a place for children only, but the fact is that parents and teachers frequently seek help of the assistants in this department; parents in the selection of books to read aloud to the children, and teachers, books to be used in connection with their classroom teaching.

One phase of the work of this department which shows marked increase from year to year is the reference work for children in the upper grades. New methods of teaching require more independent work on the part of the pupil which in turn means more demands upon the staff and the book resources of the Juvenile Department.

Book Week was celebrated with special displays of the new juvenile books of the fall, a Book House, electrically lighted and completely covered with colorful book jackets, and a reading contest with four book prizes for the winners donated by Hutchinson's Book Store.



FLORAL BED

Commemorating the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Ratification of the U. S. Constitution and the Incorporation of the City of New Bedford.

During October and November the Children's librarians visited thirty-seven fourth grades in the public schools to interest the children in using the library. While many of the children already possessed borrowers' cards, 189 boys and girls from the classes were registered as new borrowers. This project, undertaken for the first time this year through the cooperation of the school department, will be continued each year as a part of the programme of work with the schools.

The pupils in the seventh grades in the schools in the center of the city were scheduled for a period in the Juvenile Department for a brief introduction to the use of the card catalogue and reference books.

BRANCHES

The community branches located in the North and South sections of the city have reported increased use during 1937 as compared with 1936. The rooms are filled from opening time to closing with men and women reading newspapers and magazines. On two days during November at the South Branch the circulation exceeded the peak reached at the height of the depression. On the record day 682 books were lent for home use. Circulation statistics for the West Branch indicated a decrease. The circulation of books in 1936 and 1937 in each of the branches was as follows:

	1936	1937	Increase or Decrease
North	46765	49417	+2652
South	89120	94753	+5633
West	30359	26927	—3432

PUBLICITY

A Publicity Committee of staff members with Miss Marion H. Bonner of the Reference Department as Chairman was appointed to plan ways and means of informing

the public about the many services and activities of the library. The publicity programme now includes regular broadcasts from the local radio station, WNBH, every Monday evening from 7 to 7:15 P. M., a column of library items each week in the Sunday edition of "The Standard-Times," and a selected list of new books added to the library in the same paper every Thursday.

Thanks are due the editors of the local newspapers and the management of WNBH for their splendid cooperation.

GIFTS

The library is very fortunate in its possession of many friends who add to its resources by valuable gifts.

During 1937 a total of 921 volumes have been received. This does not include gifts of many pamphlets, pictures, and periodicals.

Twenty-eight volumes, most of them of local historical interest were received from Mr. John H. Clifford; sixty-eight books of interest to Catholic readers were donated by the Alumni of Holy Family High School; three hundred and fifteen were received from the estate of Mr. Edward Murray; and one hundred and seven French books were the gift of G. E. Stechert & Company of New York.

Two water colors were given the library by the artist, Miss Lena M. Newcastle, who was for several years instructor in art at the New Bedford High School.

On Armistice Day a Shrine of the Constitution of the United States was presented to the library by the pupils of St. Anthony's School through the good offices of the New Bedford Chapter of American War Mothers.

PERSONNEL

Beloved and admired by the public, the Trustees, and the members of the library staff, Mr. George H. Tripp retired on July second after serving for thirty-six years as librarian. He left a rich heritage for those who carry on

his work of an outstanding library organization and high ideals of library service.

On July first a number of library employees joined the Retirement System which has been adopted by the City of New Bedford for city employees who are not already enrolled under some other plan.

In September Miss Mary Watson who had been in the library service for thirty-five years retired under the provisions of the Retirement System.

Miss Elsie Veeder, assistant at the South Branch resigned. Her place was filled by the promotion of Miss Kathleen U. Lawless who had served as a page for several years.

Mr. Clifton N. Hatch was appointed to the building force to serve as an elevator operator.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

No annual report is complete, particularly that of a new executive, without some statement of future needs.

The problem needing most serious consideration by the Trustees and the city officials is the matter of financial support. In making a study of the present situation we realize, of course, that very little can be done now in view of economic conditions to increase the City Appropriation by the amount needed to restore the library's income to the pre-depression level. However, it should be pointed out that with the heavier demands upon the library caused by the business recession, there is greater need for more money for books than during a period of prosperity when fewer readers use the library. Yet the income from trust funds from which the library buys all its books is steadily decreasing. The income from funds is also used to pay for periodical subscriptions, for rebinding worn books, and for various items of maintenance in excess of the amounts provided in the City Appropriation. A cursory glance at the

incomes from invested funds will show an amount of \$15,144.14 for 1937 from this source. This is much larger than the general average for the last five years and larger than the expected income for 1938 since the amount received in 1937 includes a sizeable amount of back income on bonds which defaulted during the depression years. The estimated income from funds during 1938, as near as it can be figured in advance, will be slightly under \$11,000.00. This is approximately \$4,000.00 less than in 1937. The investment of principal as securities mature usually results in loss of income because of lower prevailing rates of interest.

In view of this condition the Budget Request for the City Appropriation for 1938 includes an item of \$1,000.00 for books. The only way in which the library can partially meet the increasing demand for books is to receive money from the city to be spent for books to supplement the amount available from funds.

If granted, the \$1,000.00 will be spent immediately for books for the branch libraries whose book collections are in sad need of strengthening with new titles, and of the replacement of old books in constant demand.

Immediate provision should be made to preserve the large collection of whaling logs owned by the library. Each volume, unique in that it is the only copy of the book in existence, needs to be rebound. In many cases the leather backs have disintegrated and separated from the covers. This work should be done by expert professional binders who have the proper materials and equipment to properly sew and cover these manuscripts.

At the Main Library the current periodicals are shelved in the Reference Room. During the afternoon and evening there are so many magazine readers using the room that there is very little accommodation for those desiring to consult the reference books. The magazine cases are occupy-

ing wall space needed for shelving for reference books. Only a small proportion of the reference collection can now be kept in the Reference Room. The removal of the current magazines from the Reference Room to the lower floor to the Newspaper Reading Room would release the Reference Room for the use of patrons doing research and would leave the wall space free for the installation of more shelving for reference books. If the periodicals are moved to the Newspaper Reading Room, attendants should be provided for constant supervision of the room. At present the Newspaper Reading Room has no attendant on duty. Two additional assistants would be needed to carry out this plan.

The North Branch now on the second floor over Police Station, No. 5, is poorly located to serve the residents of that section of the city. The present location is fully a mile from the center of the north end community. Either a new branch building comparable to that serving the south end of the city, or commodious rented quarters would meet the need.

An objective study of each department and unit of the library by the staff and Trustees is recommended as the best method to find the strong and weak points of our present organization. From the findings of such a study a programme could then be outlined to guide the library officials in planning future development of the library service.

MISCELLANEOUS

Thirteen WPA workers have been engaged in repairing books in the main library and the branches for several months. Two young women have been assigned the library by the NYA as clerical workers.

The Monday afternoon Book Talks conducted during January, February and March were largely attended.

The Librarian is grateful to all employees who have so patiently accepted the many changes, and the Board of Trustees for their unflagging support of his innovations.

Respectfully submitted,

HARLAND A. CARPENTER,

Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORT

1937

STATISTICS

Population of New Bedford, January 1, 1937		
Assessors Estimate		109,898
Book Circulation		545,942
Main Library	207,516	
Branch Libraries	171,097	
School Collection	130,089	
High School Library	4,559	
Junior High Schools	25,362	
St. Luke's Hospital	7,184	
Inter-Library Loans	135	
Pictures loaned		
Art Room 24,035; Genealogical Room 38		24,073
Book Collection, 1936	199,430	
Books added, 1937	6,166	
Book Collection, Net additions 1937	4,266	203,696
Periodicals received	284	
Newspapers received	45	
Volumes bound and rebound	4,285	
Adult, Non Fiction	224	
Adult, Fiction	500	
Juvenile, Central	812	
Juvenile School Collection	2,749	
Borrowers, active (5 year registration)		33,129
Central, Adult	16,854	
Central, Juvenile	7,421	
Branches		
North	2,466	
South	4,415	
West	1,973	

CITY APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		\$54,000.00
Salaries	\$34,864.31	
Wages	14,962.39	
Supplies	472.95	
Janitor's Supplies	366.94	
Repairs	729.88	
Furniture and Equipment	487.26	
Lighting Branches	519.46	
Heating Branches	426.17	
Telephones	306.89	
Express and Carting	90.21	
Building Miscellany	265.60	
Library Miscellany	155.34	
Postage	92.16	
Periodicals	150.63	
Printing	99.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$53,989.19	
Balance	10.81	
	<hr/>	
		\$54,000.00

KEMPTON FUND

Balance	\$6.63	
Receipts and Credits	12,947.66	
	<hr/>	
		\$12,954.29
Books	\$7,629.80	
Periodicals	1,430.40	
Binding Books	1,540.83	
Binding Periodicals	91.84	
Supplies	889.57	
Printing	547.05	
Stationery	53.25	
Library Miscellany	426.13	
Postage	231.10	
Express and Carting	110.05	
	<hr/>	
	\$12,950.02	
Balance	4.27	
	<hr/>	
		\$12,954.29

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	\$4.08	
Receipts and Credits	1,575.21	
	<hr/>	\$1,579.29
Books	935.43	
Periodicals	74.85	
Binding Books	94.25	
Binding Periodicals	8.00	
Supplies	154.68	
Printing	74.35	
Stationery	3.64	
Library Miscellany	126.10	
Express and Carting	93.00	
Repairs	14.61	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,578.91	
Balance	.38	
	<hr/>	\$1,579.29

GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$49.42	
Receipts and Credits	438.27	
	<hr/>	\$487.69
Books	\$231.59	
Periodicals	14.00	
Binding Books	192.89	
Printing	6.50	
Express and Carting	25.00	
Library Miscellany	17.12	
	<hr/>	
	\$487.10	
Balance	.59	
	<hr/>	\$487.69

JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	\$2.72	
Receipts and Credits	15.00	
	<hr/>	\$17.72
Books	7.12	
Periodicals	10.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$17.12	
Balance	.60	
	<hr/>	\$17.72

CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	\$.90	
Receipts and Credits	30.00	
	<hr/>	\$30.90
Books	25.00	
Periodicals	5.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$30.00	
Balance	.90	
	<hr/>	\$30.90

CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	\$2.90	
Receipts and Credits	60.00	
	<hr/>	\$62.90
Books	\$4.50	
Periodicals	58.34	
	<hr/>	
	\$62.84	
Balance	.06	
	<hr/>	\$62.90

GEORGE HOWLAND, JR. FUND

Balance	\$25.64	
Receipts and Credits	48.00	
	<hr/>	\$73.64
Books	\$69.65	
Periodicals	1.50	
	<hr/>	
	\$71.15	
Balance	2.49	
	<hr/>	\$73.64

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$3.17	
Receipts and Credits	30.00	
	<hr/>	\$33.17
Books	\$26.34	
Periodicals	5.29	
Supplies	1.22	
	<hr/>	
	\$32.85	
Balance	\$.32	
	<hr/>	\$33.17

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

January 1, 1937 — December 31, 1937

Salaries	\$34,864.31
Wages	14,962.39
Books	8,929.43
Periodicals	1,750.01
Binding Books	1,827.97
Binding Periodicals	99.84
Supplies	1,518.42
Janitor's Supplies	366.94
Stationery	56.89
Repairs	744.49
Lighting Branches	519.46
Heating Branches	426.17
Postage	323.26
Telephones	306.89
Express and Carting	318.26
Printing	726.90
Furniture and Equipment	487.26
Library Miscellany	724.69
Building Miscellany	265.60
	<hr/>
	\$69,219.18

ANNUAL REPORT

Free Public Library

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

January 27, 1938

Received, placed on file and sent down for concurrence.

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk

IN COMMON COUNCIL,

January 27, 1938

Concurred.

CHARLES W. DEASY,

Clerk

Attest :

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk